To: Principal Kevin Scott

From: Mr. Harris/ISS Technician

RE: Creation of a Discipline Team to Address Problematic Behavior

As you know, MCSD’s decision last year to ban corporal punishment in schools has greatly affected the educational landscape that teachers and students now occupy. One of the unforeseen consequences of this decision was the vacuum that was created between ISS (in school suspension and OSS (out of school suspension). The option of using corporal punishment allowed administrators the ability to discipline children for a given offense and then return those students to the educational environment thereby minimizing the educational interruption. With the removal of corporal punishment many schools including East Columbus have seen an immediate increase in the number of office referrals and children being placed in ISS, suspended, and expelled. As such, it is my proposal that the school develop/create a discipline team composed of both administrative personnel and teachers to speak directly to these issues.

From my perspective as the ISS Technician, I have noticed that most of the disciplinary issues last year at East Columbus fell into the following two categories dress code and defiance/disrespect of authority. As such, I think the initial focus of the discipline team should be centered on these issues with the ability to address future issues as they arise. The beauty and strength of the discipline team is that it makes the creation of new/additional disciplinary measures collaborative rather than an individualized effort. I think the first faculty meeting of the year on August 12, 2014 would be a great platform to introduce this idea where volunteers for participation in the team could be solicited. Thereafter, when the team is formed scheduled meetings times and dates could be discussed by individual members relative to the best times for those involved.

After careful thought and consideration, I do not see any pre-existing or emerging issues with the adoption of this proposal in the form of cost or implementation concerns. If my proposal is adopted it will effectively close the gap in the schools disciplinary procedures which will be beneficial in the following 3 ways. 1) It will substantially decrease the number of students who are being placed in ISS, suspended, and expelled. 2) It will provide teachers with necessary support/alternatives for dealing with disruptive behavior thereby strengthening morale and positively affecting the learning environment. 3) It will address and foster a connection in students between actions and consequences, thus complying with the school motto in its goal of giving students of this school the “necessary tools to be functioning citizens of a global society”.

At your convenience, please contact me in regards to any questions that you might have regarding my proposal and its implementation.

Sincerely,

Mr. Harris/ISS Technician